



NATIONAL
ASSOCIATION OF
COUNTY & CITY
HEALTH OFFICIALS

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American Planning Association

Making great communities happen

Request For Applications
Health Impact Assessment Workshop
Built Environment and Public Health Partnerships

NACCHO must receive completed applications by Friday, December 9, 2005

Background

The origins of both community planning and public health are rooted in the goals of protecting the public from outbreaks of disease and improving the quality of life for all. While this shared history is hardly evident in a review of current practices, things are changing. In the last several years, a renewed understanding of the goals and interests shared by the two professions has emerged. Compelling research suggests correlations between the built environment and public health concerns such as physical inactivity and resulting chronic diseases, as well as problems related to pedestrian safety, water quality, air quality, social capital, etc. Given these connections, it becomes critical to assess, prevent, and mitigate potential health risks associated with proposed development projects or planning/zoning policies. Health impact assessment (HIA) is one of the ways that communities can begin to address these issues. Widely used in Europe and Australia, HIA is broadly, "...a practical assessment of policies, programs and projects that may affect the public's health, and which provides recommendations to maximize positive health effects and minimizing the negative health aspects of proposals, policies and projects."^{1,2} In Europe, collaboration between health professionals and planners using such tools is quite common.

In the U.S., land use planning and community design decisions are primarily made at the local level, yet contributions from local public health professionals has been narrowly focused on permitting, inspections, and in some cases development review, thus limiting their opportunity to make recommendations before a project has been initiated. However, many local health departments (LHDs) have begun using a variety of health assessment tools to identify local problem areas and are seeking to influence land use/zoning policy decisions that could have potential negative health impacts on communities. The National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO), in partnership with the American Planning Association (APA) and with support from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), will conduct a 1-1/2 day HIA training workshop to educate local public health professionals and planners on HIA methodology and provide the necessary strategies to implement HIA in their respective communities.

With guidance and assistance from NACCHO, APA, CDC and international experts, workshop participants will develop collaborative approaches to these key issues through tabletop exercises,

¹ World Health Organization, <http://www.who.int/hia/about/en/>

² National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence, <http://www.publichealth.nice.org.uk/page.aspx?o=WhatisHIA>

discussion, and presentations. The workshop duration will be 1-1/2 days in length, and will take place February 2-3, 2006 in Washington, DC.

Expectations

Each participating local health department and planning agency or elected official will be responsible for coordinating with each other, and attending the workshop together, as partners. Each workshop participant must complete the following activities:

- Attend the workshop together, as a team of 2 individuals, as representatives of the LHD and local planning agency or elected representative of a local agency;
- Actively participate in all activities and agenda items;
- Submit to NACCHO's Model Practices program regarding partnership activities between agencies; and
- Participation in follow-up activities, including surveys, conference calls, etc.

Benefits

NACCHO and APA make a commitment to providing the following to each selected workshop participant:

- **A \$500 travel stipend to each participant, to be used toward airfare, hotel stay, etc. for this workshop;
- Some meals will be provided;
- Technical assistance as needed in the design, implementation, and evaluation of activities;
- Access to peer advisors to support and assist the post-workshop activities; and
- Access to existing tools and materials designed to enhance LHD and planning agency collaboration in implementing a HIA process.

****All participants will be responsible for travel and other costs associated with the workshop over and above the \$500 travel stipend. Registration for the workshop is FREE.**

Eligibility

This workshop is intended for local practitioners who are familiar with health impact assessment or other similar processes and have begun to work toward implementing a process of this nature. To be eligible for the workshop, the applicant must:

- Represent an LHD or planning agency/elected position;
- Participate with their LHD or local planning agency or elected official;
- Agree to fulfill expectations for participation;
- Demonstrate knowledge of HIA processes or similar health assessments; and
- Provide an initial action plan for HIA implementation in your jurisdiction.

Application Procedure

Five community pairs will be selected through a competitive application process. The pairs will consist of one local public health professional and one planner or elected official. Acceptance of the applicants will be based in part on the applicants' familiarity with HIA or environmental/community health assessment, existing partnership with local health or planning department, and detailed plan of action of how they will use HIA in their community. Applicants are required to submit information for Parts I and Part II of the workshop application form (see attached). **Spaces are limited**, and not every applicant will be selected to attend. Only one application should be completed for each jurisdiction, and returned by either the LHD or the planning agency or elected official.

- Part I – Include contact information for LHD and planning agency or elected official, including jurisdiction size and type.
- Part II – On separate pages, describe the following: organizational capacity (including current areas of collaboration on issues of the built environment's impact on public health), the land use/health issue that you plan to address through health impact assessment, and a description of how health impact assessment will be implemented after the workshop.

The deadline for applications is close of business, December 9, 2005. Selected participants will be notified within by January 6, 2005. Please submit **five** copies of the application to:

**Jessica Solomon
NACCHO
1100 17th Street NW, Suite 200
Washington, DC 20036**

No applications will be accepted by fax. You may e-mail or postal mail. Applications received after the deadline will not be considered.

Selection Process

NACCHO and APA will review each application. Proposals will be selected on the following:

- Completeness (includes Parts I and II of the application form);
- Evidence of agency capacity in conducting joint activities; and
- Demonstrated interest and capacity in pursuing future collaborations.

Additional Information

For additional information about NACCHO and APA's work on the built environment and health, and health impact assessment, visit: http://www.naccho.org/topics/HPDP/Land_Use_Planning.cfm.

For questions about this RFA, contact:
Jessica Solomon, Program Associate
NACCHO
(202) 783-5550, Ext. 266
jsolomon@naccho.org

Health Impact Assessment Workshop
Built Environment and Public Health Partnerships

APPLICATION FORM

NACCHO must receive applications by December 9, 2005.

PART I

Local Health Department

Agency name: _____

Participants name and title: _____

Street address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Telephone: _____ Fax: _____

E-mail: _____

Signature: _____

Local Planning Agency

Agency name: _____

Participants name and title: _____

Street address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Telephone: _____ Fax: _____

E-mail: _____

Signature: _____

Jurisdiction

Population size served:	< 50,000	50,000 – 199,999
	200,000 – 1 million	> 1 million
Primarily:	Urban	Rural

PART II

Please document (on separate pages) the following:

- **Organizational Capacity (1-2 pages)**

Describe your mission, history, and current programs that address land use planning or public health and organizational structure. Emphasis should be given on your capacity for health impact assessment and current successful collaborative activities with the other agency.

- **Program Description (1-2 pages) – include the following:**

- Description of the issues that will be addressed in conjunction with the planning/health agency through health impact assessment.
- Description of how HIA will be implemented, including what parties will be involved in implementation.
- Desired outcomes of from the process.

- **Indicate particular questions you have about HIA or otherwise describe what you would like to take away from this workshop.**